"He stood his ground like a wild mountain boar, trusting his strength, standing up to a rout of men that scream and swoop against him off in a lonely copse, the ridge of his back bristling, his eyes flashing fire, he grinds his teeth, champing to beat back dogs and men."
--Homer, The Iliad
ARCHERS: CONCENTRATE YOUR FIRE ON THE CENTER--TAKE OUT THEIR COMMANDERS!
INFANTRY AND SPEARMEN, PREPARE TO CHARGE!!
WAIT!! DO MY EYES LIE? COULD THAT POSSIBLY BE--
ALEXANDER!
AWAY WITH YOU, BATTLE-DOGS! STAND NOT BETWEEN ZEUS AND HIS BLOOD!
FEAR NOT, I SHALL TAKE YOU AWAY FROM THESE BEASTS AND BACK TO YOUR FATHER'S ARMS!
WHO-- WHO ARE YOU?
I AM YOUR GRANDFATHER, BOY.
AND YOU ARE HERE, AMID THIS CHAOS, BECAUSE OF ME.

FOOOSHBLA
AXXXXTH!

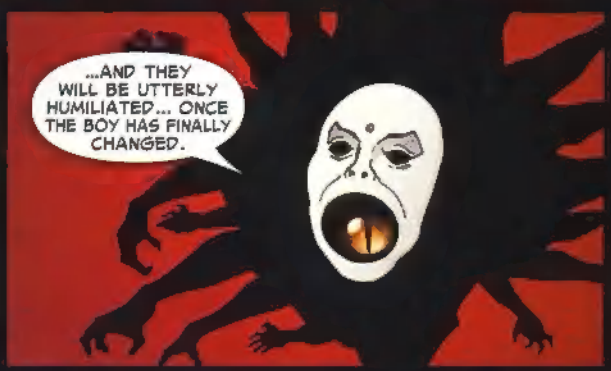
GGGGGHHHHH!

HAHA HAHAHA HAH...

AHH... THE PERSONAL TOUCH...

...MORE SATISFYING THAN WATCHING A THOUSAND ENEMIES CRUMBLE FROM AFAR!

SKILLED WORK, MY PET, YOU CARRY MY POWER WELL. WE WILL CRUSH THESE GODS...


...AND THEY WILL BE UTTERLY HUMILIATED... ONCE THE BOY HAS FINALLY CHANGED.

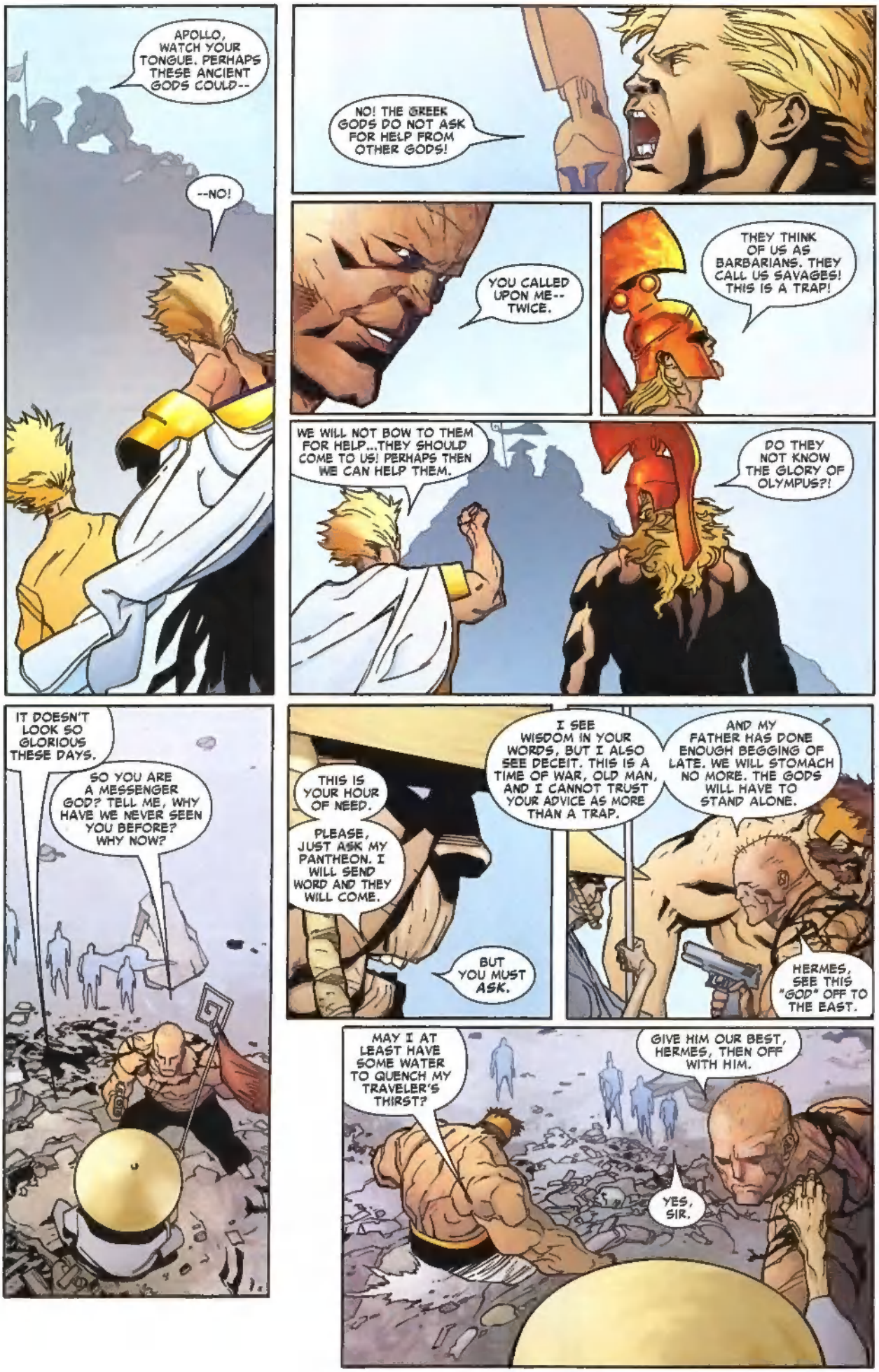
THE BATTLE GOES WELL, ALEXANDER!
AND I SEE THAT YOUR BODY IS GROWING WITH THE SPEED OF YOUR NEWFOUND WISDOM!

CAN YOU NOW SEE THE TRAIL OF BLOOD YOUR FATHER LEAVES WITH HIS SWORD?
I CAN SEE... I CAN SEE THE TRUTH WITH MY EYES...
IT'S ALL SO CLEAR NOW...
I CAN SEE MY FATHER'S WORK, SLAUGHTERING YOUR HONORABLE WARRIORS...
MY FAMILY...MAKES ME SICK...
THIS IS WHAT WE ARE? KILLERS, WAR-MAKERS...MURDERERS OF OUR OWN FATHERS!
BUT YOU CAN CHANGE ALL THAT. TAKE THE MANTLE. DESTROY YOUR FAMILY TREE!
PULL OUT YOUR ROOTS AND REMAKE THE GOD OF WAR!
IT IS IN YOUR OLYMPIAN BLOOD! SHOW THEM ON THE BATTLEFIELD!
IT IS IN MY BLOOD. I WILL SHOW THEM ON THE BATTLEFIELD...
OPEN THE TENT!
VILE DOGS OF OLYMPUS! PREPARE TO BE DESTROYED!

ARES NEVER LET THE BOY KNOW HIS TRUE POTENTIAL FOR SLAUGHTER... HIS TALENTS ARE LIMITLESS.
WITH FRESH TRAINING FROM OUR EASTERN SWORDS, HE WILL PROVE UNSTOPPABLE! HE TRULY IS THE CHILD OF THE GOD OF WAR!
HERCULES!!! OUR FATHER HAS FALLEN!
CAST YOUR EYES TO THE FIELD BELOW, BROTHERS. LOOK AT THESE WEAK GREEKS, PITYING THEIR CASUALTIES LIKE HOUSEWIVES!
PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRANSFORM INTO SOMETHING THEY HAVEN'T SEEN BEFORE! GIVE THEM A TRUE TASTE OF OUR FULL POWER!
AJAX! WHAT THING COULD HAVE FELLED ZEUS? WHAT ARE THESE STRANGE MARKS ON--
--HERCULES! MAKE HASTE! THEIR FORCES DRAW CLOSER!
AND THERE ARE DARK GODS AMONG THEM!

LATER...
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT EASTERN MAGIC HAS STRUCK MY HUSBAND, BUT HE LINGERS BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH...
COME BACK TO ME, YOU CHEATING OLD FOOL!
I WILL DO ALL I CAN... BUT I RECOGNIZE NOT THESE WOUNDS...
ASKLEPIOS, YOUR HEALING POWERS HAVE NEVER FAILED US...
BUT I FEAR IF ZEUS'S SONS DON'T STOP THEIR PETTY QUARRELING AND RISE TO THIS OCCASION, ALL WILL BE LOST...
IF "WE" DON'T STOP OUR "QUARRELING"? HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TRIED TO DESTROY "YOUR SONS," MOTHER?
NOT NOW, BROTHER, I HAVE LAID MY WRATH ASIDE FOR OUR GREATER NEEDS...
DON'T BE AN IDIOT. HER HISTORY SPEAKS CLEAREST; SHE'LL KILL AGAIN IF YOU TRUST HER...
WHAT SAY MY SONS? ARE WE PREPARED TO WORK AS ONE?
I SAY YOU'RE AS EVIL AS I EVER WAS, MOTHER--
--BUT WE MUST WORK TOGETHER NOW. AS WE RISE AND FALL, SO SHALL OLYMPUS, AND SO SHALL ALEXANDER. IF--

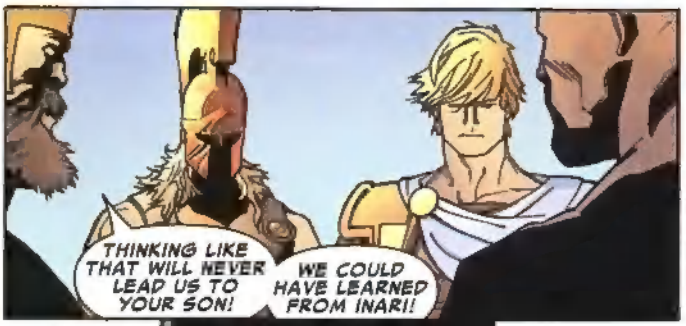
--AN INTRUDER!
NO, SONS OF ZEUS! IT IS I, HERMES!
YOU NEARLY LOST YOUR LIFE, SPEEDSTER. WHAT BRINGS YOU WITH SUCH HASTE?
YOU MUST SEE THIS WITH YOUR OWN EYES!
WE FOUND AN OLD MAN, JUST SITTING HERE!
HE IS NO DEMON--NOT LIKE THE OTHERS--BUT HE REFUSES TO SPEAK TO ANYONE BUT ZEUS!
ZEUS IS UNAVAILABLE AT THE MOMENT. SPEAK.
WHO DO YOU CLAIM TO BE? LIE AND I'LL CRUSH YOUR FACE IN.
BE CAREFUL OF HIS TEMPER, OLD MAN. HE'S KILLED MANY MEN TODAY.


APOLLO, WATCH YOUR TONGUE. PERHAPS THESE ANCIENT GODS COULD--
--NO!
NO! THE GREEK GODS DO NOT ASK FOR HELP FROM OTHER GODS!
YOU CALLED UPON ME-- TWICE.
THEY THINK OF US AS BARBARIANS. THEY CALL US SAVAGES! THIS IS A TRAP!
WE WILL NOT BOW TO THEM FOR HELP...THEY SHOULD COME TO US! PERHAPS THEN WE CAN HELP THEM.
DO THEY NOT KNOW THE GLORY OF OLYMPUS?!
IT DOESN'T LOOK SO GLORIOUS THESE DAYS.
SO YOU ARE A MESSENGER GOD? TELL ME, WHY HAVE WE NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE? WHY NOW?
THIS IS YOUR HOUR OF NEED.
PLEASE, JUST ASK MY PANTHEON. I WILL SEND WORD AND THEY WILL COME.
BUT YOU MUST ASK.
I SEE WISDOM IN YOUR WORDS, BUT I ALSO SEE DECEIT. THIS IS A TIME OF WAR, OLD MAN, AND I CANNOT TRUST YOUR ADVICE AS MORE THAN A TRAP.
AND MY FATHER HAS DONE ENOUGH BEGGING OF LATE. WE WILL STOMACH NO MORE. THE GODS WILL HAVE TO STAND ALONE.
HERMES, SEE THIS "GOD" OFF TO THE EAST.
MAY I AT LEAST HAVE SOME WATER TO QUENCH MY TRAVELER'S THIRST?
GIVE HIM OUR BEST, HERMES, THEN OFF WITH HIM.
YES, SIR.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE TO RECOVER OUR MEN AND RESOURCES FROM THAT LAST ATTACK?
OUR MEN HAVE GROWN USED TO THESE HIT-AND-RUN TACTICS. WE WILL MUSTER OUR FORCES QUICKLY ENOUGH...
WE WILL CONTINUE WITH OUR PLANS TO PUSH INTO THEIR LAND?

IT'S NOW OR NEVER. ONE LAST RUSH INTO THE MAW OF DEATH...OR VICTORY.
DO YOU NOT SEE THE VALUE IN THAT OLD MAN? HE COULD HAVE LED US--

WITH OUR HOME UNDER SIEGE, YOU WOULD PLACE ALL OUR HOPES IN A STRANGER'S HANDS? HAVE YOU LEARNED NOTHING FROM ZEUS?


THINKING LIKE THAT WILL NEVER LEAD US TO YOUR SON!
WE COULD HAVE LEARNED FROM INARI!

WHO KNOWS WHAT DAMAGE THE MESSENGER DID JUST BY BEING HERE, HERCULES? I SMELL THE STINK OF MAGIC IN THE AIR AND IT SOURS MY STOMACH.

FIVE YEARS LATER.

AND SO THE POEM OF WAR GOES ON AND ON THROUGH GENERATIONS AND TIME.

THE ECHO OF ONE BATTLE FADES TO GIVE LIFE TO ANOTHER.

SUCH IS THE CYCLE OF LIFE AND DEATH, FOR MEN AND GODS ALIKE.

FOR THE LOVE OF FATHER AND SON, THE GODS STAND SHOULDER TO SHOULDER. AFTER ENDLESS BLOODSHED, THEY HAVE REACHED THE WALLS OF MIKABUSHI'S HELL!

TROY WAS FOR A WOMAN. THIS IS FOR A BOY...

FOR THE FALLEN HEROES!

ALEXANDER!!

FOR ZEUS AND OLYMPUS!

JORMUNGAND
DIGITAL COMICS PRESERVATION

READ IT? LIKE IT? BUY IT!
Support the comics industry
And your favorite local comic shop